

EFFECTS OF WINTER RECREATION ON WILDLIFE OF THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA: A LITERATURE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT



Greater Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Working Group
Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee



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PREFACE

This publication is a cooperative project of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) and was undertaken at the request of the Greater Yellowstone Winter Visitor Use Management Working Group (Working Group). Because the Working Group felt that the effects of winter recreation on wildlife had not been adequately addressed, the Winter Wildlife Working Group (Wildlife Group) was formed in December 1996. Twenty-six biologists and resource managers from the Forest Service, National Park Service, the states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, and private organizations were invited to participate; 18 submitted papers.

The Wildlife Group first met in December 1996. We commissioned Jim Caslick, Ph.D. (Caslick 1997), retired wildlife biology faculty of Cornell University, to update an annotated bibliography on the effects of winter recreation on wildlife commissioned by Grand Teton National Park in 1995 (Bennett 1995). We examined these bibliographies, an additional bibliography supplied by the Biodiversity Legal Foundation (1996), and independent sources to address impacts to wildlife species and issues of concern.

This document is only the first step in addressing the effects of winter recreation on wildlife. The short time frame allotted for developing the issue statements did not allow for original research, though clearly more research is needed on this important topic. New information is also coming to light concerning the effects of two-cycle engines on air and water quality and the deposition of heavy metals

in the snowpack. This new information is not included in this document. Additionally, there is no cumulative impacts analysis in this document, as that was beyond the scope of this effort.

We hope that this document will be useful to managers, biologists, and scientists as they manage and further explore the effects of winter recreation on the environment.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Biodiversity Legal Foundation. 1996. Report and formal comments on the current and potential adverse impacts of winter recreational use in Yellowstone National Park and the winter use management planning process by the U.S. National Park Service. Boulder, Colorado, USA.
- Caslick, J. W. 1997. Impacts of winter recreation on wildlife in Yellowstone National Park: a literature review and recommendations. Report to the National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA. Appendix I, this document.

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The project is the result of many hours of hard work by federal, state, and private biologists from throughout the Greater Yellowstone Area. Contributors took time from their busy schedules to research, write, and review the individual chapters, often volunteering their time and expertise. We are grateful for their effort and dedication.

Tom Olliff, Kristin Legg, and Beth Kaeding edited this report. Christy Hendrix and Tami Blackford assisted with technical editing. In addition, Tami completed document layout.

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